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SOMERVILLE

AND

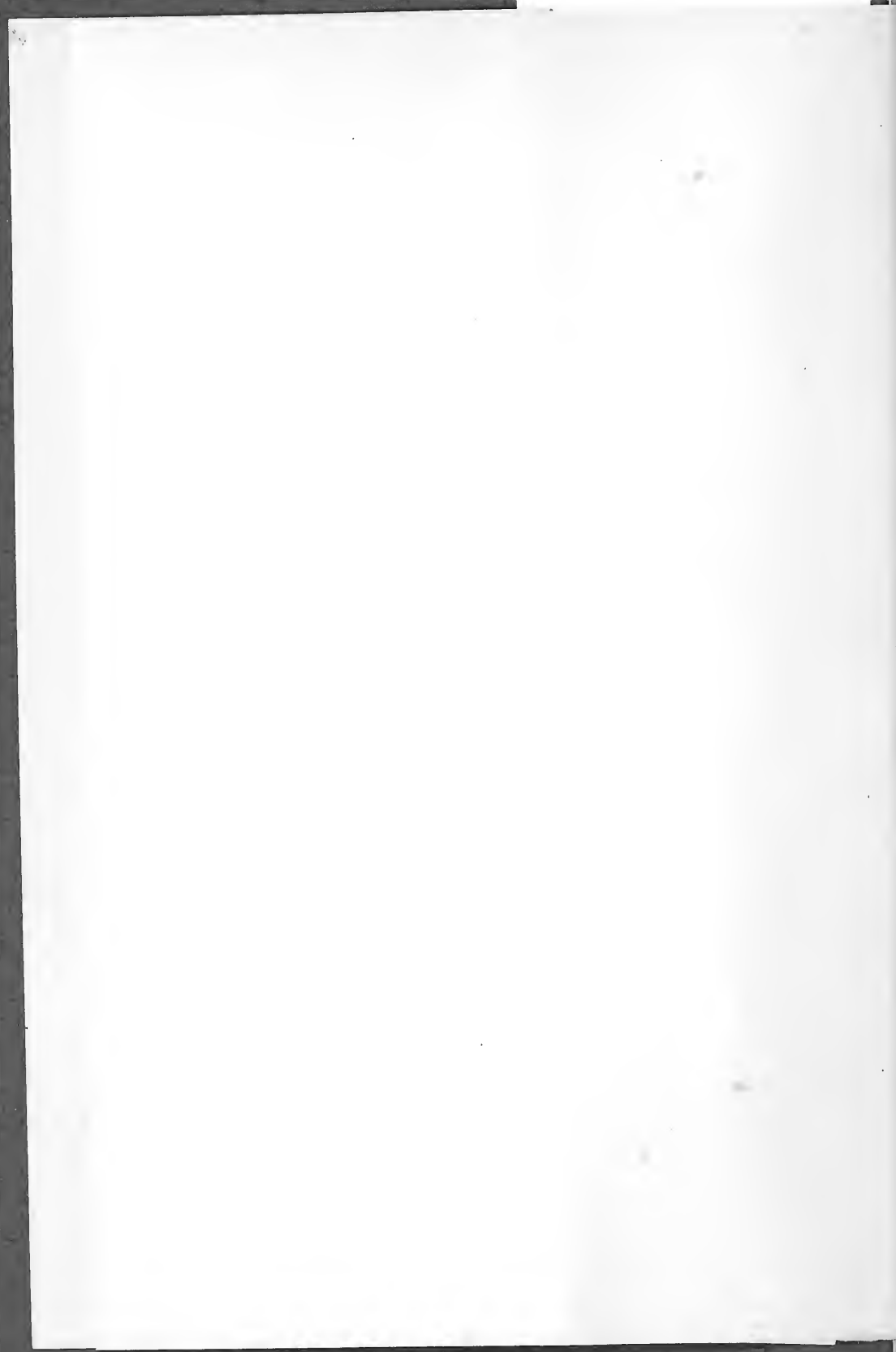
RARITAN·N·J·

ILLUSTRATED

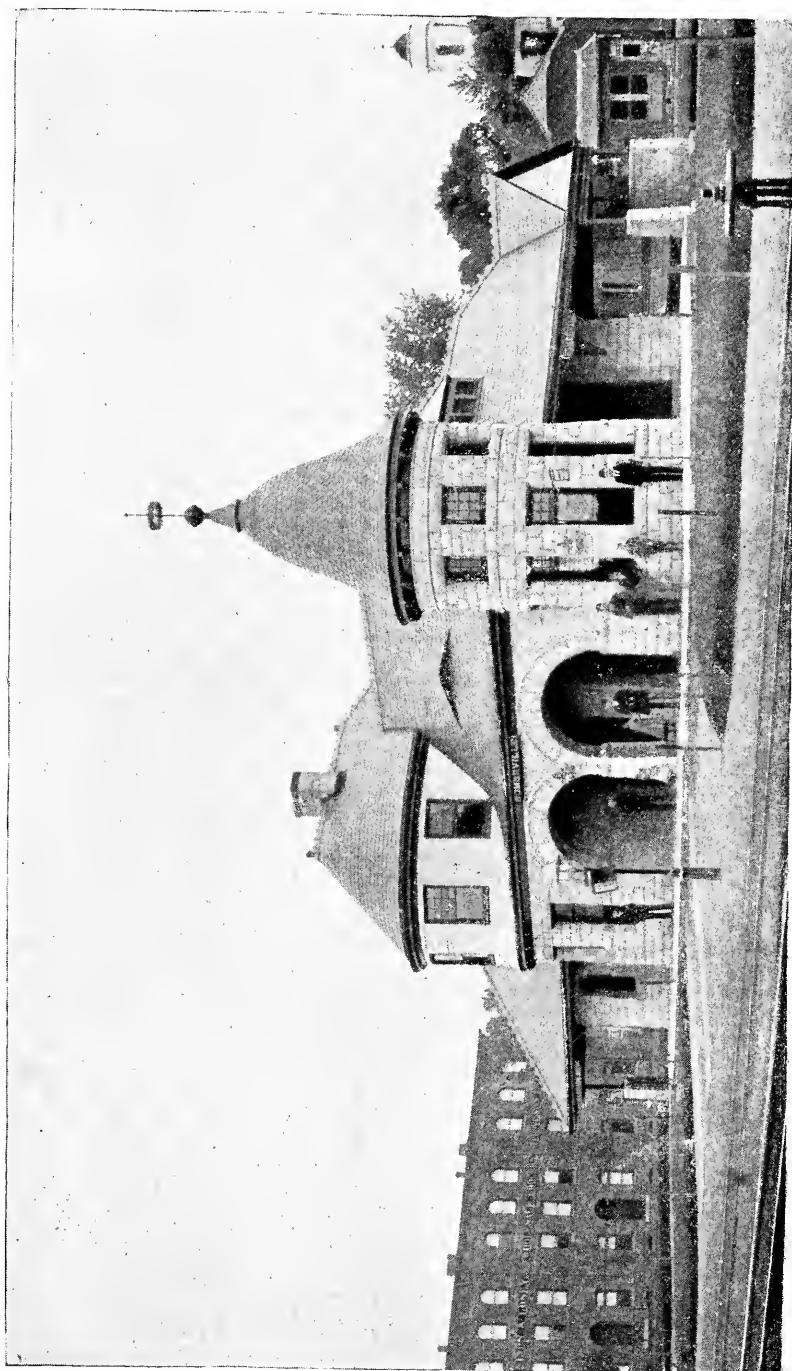










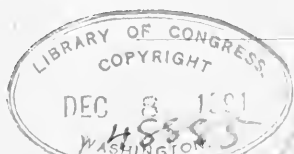


CENTRAL R. R. OF N. J. DEPOT AT SOMERVILLE, N. J.

THE TOWNS OF
SOMERVILLE AND RARITAN
NEW JERSEY.

ILLUSTRATED.

SHOWING THEIR LEADING CHARACTERISTICS, ATTRAC-
TIONS AS PLACES OF RESIDENCE, AND
BUSINESS ADVANTAGES.



COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
W. B. PARKER AND J. S. FRELINGHUYSEN.
1891.

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Somerville, N. J.
Press of the Unionist-Gazette.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

While the greater part of these photographs were taken by the compilers, they desire to express their obligations to those whose contributions have assisted toward the making of the book :

To Rev. T. W. Chambers and Mr. A. D. Melick, Jr., for some interesting historical data.

To Mr. W. A. Apgar for several valuable plates.

To Mr. J. G. Brokaw for the view of the Central depot.

To the New York Photo-Gravure Co., 137 West 23d St., New York, for the half-tone work.

To the Unionist-Gazette Pub. Co. for the printing.

WILSON B. PARKER,
J. S. FRELINGHUYSEN.

F. 14
7-16-12

*O, dwellers in the stately towns,
What come ye out to see?
This common earth, this common sky,
This water flowing free.*

*You know full well these banks of bloom
The upland's wavy line,
And how the sunshine tips with fire
The needles of the pine.*

*Yet, like some old remembered psalm,
Or sweet, familiar face,
Not less because of commonness
You love the day and place.*

*And not in vain in this soft air
Shall hard strung nerves relax,
Not all in vain the o'er worn brain
Forego its daily tax.*

*From ceiled rooms, from silent books,
From crowded car and town,
Dear Mother Earth, upon thy lap
We lay our tired heads down.*

*The license of the happy woods,
The brook's release are ours;
The freedom of the unstained wind
Among the glad eyed flowers.*

*Thanks to the gracious Providence
That brings us here once more;
For memories of the good behind
And hopes of good before!*

—WHITTIER.

PREFACE.

IT has been the endeavor of the compilers of this book to illustrate Somerville and Raritan in a series of photographic reproductions that should be various, characteristic and representative. Pictures tell, for the most part, their own story. These illustrations of the twin towns present a number of views at once faithful and attractive. The glimpses of rural scenery that here appear are suggestive of the charms of the surrounding country, while the vistas of the streets and the buildings accurately portray the towns represented.

Residents of Somerville and Raritan may well be proud of the fine appearance their domiciles present.

Visitors will find this a pleasant souvenir to carry away with them, and to show to their friends.

To strangers it will reveal some of the rare attractions these places offer for business or the making of a home.

DESCRIPTION

OF

* Somerville and Raritan. *

SOMERVILLE is the County seat of Somerset county, New Jersey. It is the business centre for a large range of surrounding country. By reason of its accessibility to New York it also retains the character of a suburban town. It has a population of about 5,000 people. Raritan, close at hand, is essentially a part of Somerville, so far as business and social interests are concerned, though it is an independent town. It is almost wholly devoted to manufactures, and numbers about 3,500 people. The two towns, together with some territory outside the corporate limits, have a population approximating 10,000 inhabitants.

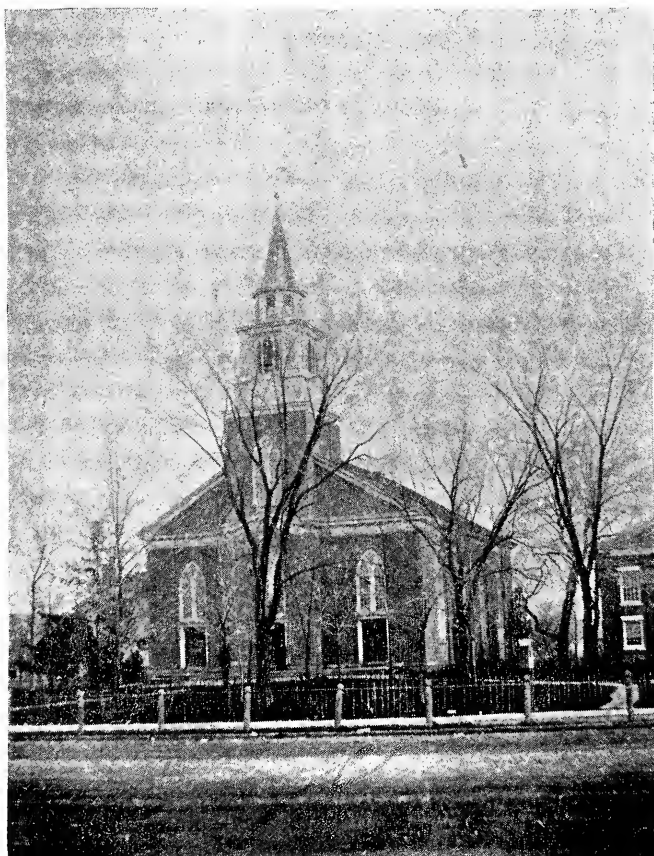
The country about Somerville and Raritan is delightful. On the south, the Raritan river winds its rapid but peaceful way towards the sea. Northward, in full view, rises the great wall of the Orange Hills, while far off to the west and south, in the blue distance, larger mountains girt the horizon. It is a region fair, open and breezy as a western prairie, and yet with river intervals, rocky glens and glorious mountain views close at hand.

To the charms of delightful scenery are added those of historic association, for Somerville is not a place of yesterday like so many suburban growths. Like old wine, it has the peculiar flavor that only long years can give. Among its honored families are names that have been household words for generations. Here the Revolution has left its way-marks—the house where Washington had his headquarters for a winter; the spot where British soldiers burned the Court House; the camp where American troops had their winter bivouac; the mountain gorge, where for six weeks Washington bade defiance to Lord Howe—all lie right at hand.

It has been said, that in no county of this State is there to be found such diversity of scenery, as in Somerset. A drive into the country in most any direction will reveal the most picturesque views. From the tops of the mountains the view extends unbroken for many miles; in the valleys beneath may be counted many a towering spire, while the many mountain streams that flow through the valleys shine in the sunlight like so many silver threads. Along the banks of the Raritan one can drive for miles in full view of the river, which with winding course threads in and out through hill and dale. Hence in summer months multitudes of residents of the cities are drawn to this locality, where the pure air and pleasant surroundings can be enjoyed, and at the same time all the comforts of life, without going to a resort in some distant region.



SOMERSET COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



REFORMED CHURCH.



ST. JOHN'S P. E. CHURCH.



SECOND REFORMED CHURCH.



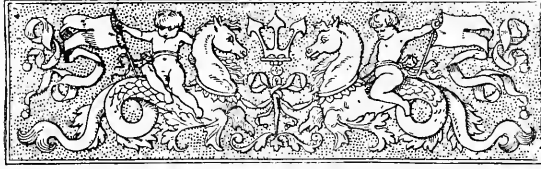
BAPTIST CHURCH.



CATHOLIC CHURCH.



M. E. CHURCH.



SOMERVILLE.

RAILROAD FACILITIES.

Somerville is situated upon the main line of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, midway between New York on the east, and Easton on the west, and about 35 miles from either place. It is also a junction of the South Branch Railroad, which has its terminus at Flemington. There are 24 trains daily, each way, between Somerville and New York. The running time of the principal trains is but little over an hour. Travel to and from the city is especially comfortable, by reason of the perfect equipment and splendid management of the Central Railroad. Its steel rails, rock ballast, hard-coal fuel, and elegant passenger coaches, lighted by gas, make a distance, that really is scarcely greater in time than is required for many a patron of horse cars and elevated roads to reach home, seem but a resting spell, full of pleasant diversions.

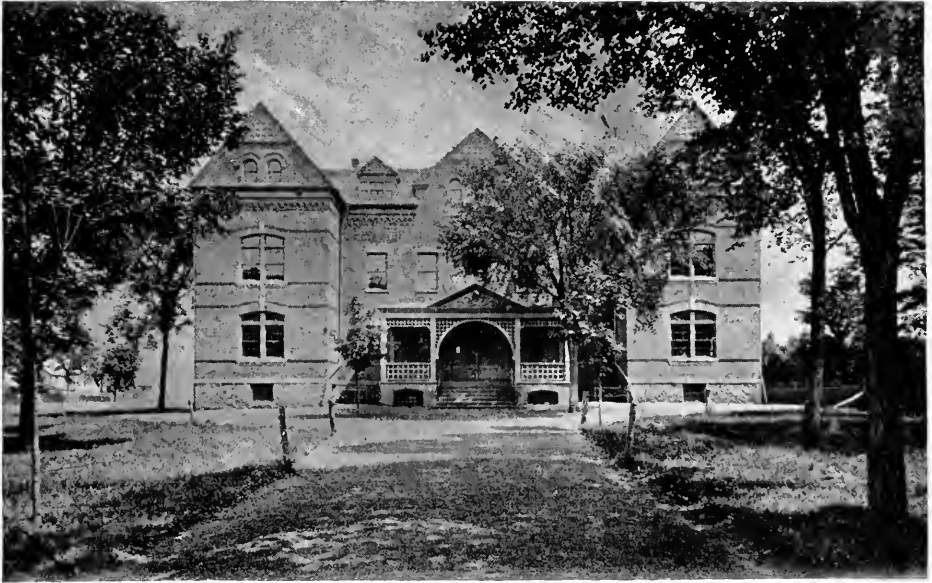
The ride from New York to Somerville is especially interesting. The brief trip across the river, with its varied sights and cool breezes, is a most pleasant beginning of the trip. After skirting the shores of New York bay, in full view of the Statue of Liberty, in a short time Newark bay is reached, and the ever-changing sights to be seen from the long bridge always form a pleasant picture. The remainder of the trip through the beautiful suburban towns, lying under the shadow of the Orange Hills, is full of interest to the stranger or to the commuter, who finally leaves the train at Somerville.

ADVANTAGES.

One of the chief advantages of the town is its healthy location, situated in a region entirely free from malarious influences, occupying a rising swell of ground, with the river on one side, and a valley, in which runs a large brook emptying into the river, on the other, a splendid natural drainage is insured to it.

As a pleasant town to live in, Somerville is superior. It has all the conveniences of a large city—gas, electric light, water works, sewers, excellent schools and churches. Rents and tax rates are low, and the cost of living considerably less than in most towns of equal size.

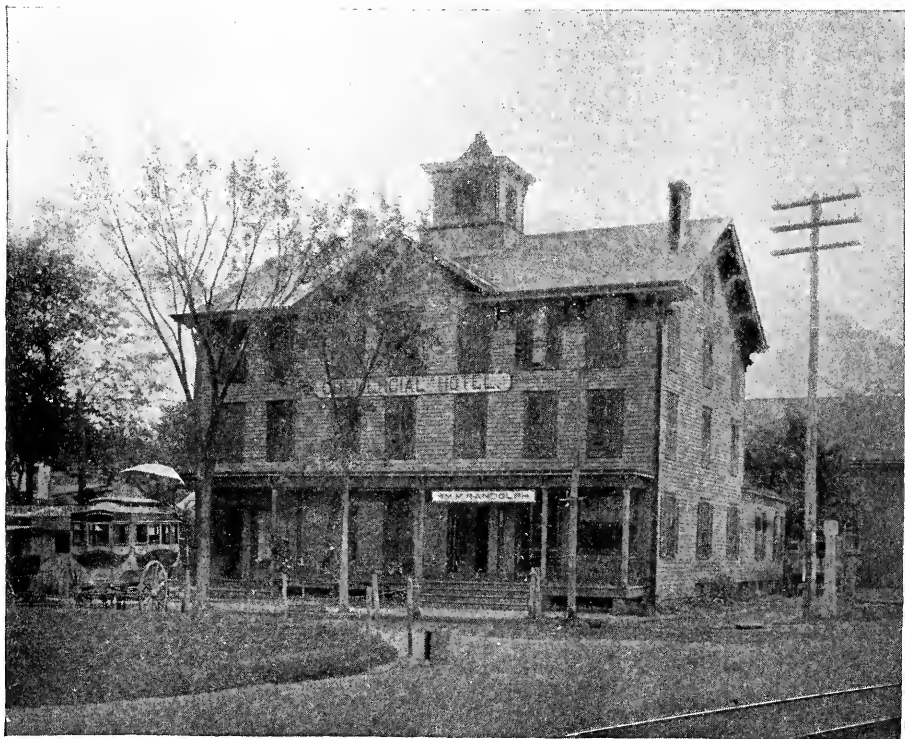
The town is well laid out. The streets are all curbed and the sidewalks laid with broad stone flagging. The hard roads in the town and surrounding country, make driving to the many picturesque resorts on the mountains and along the banks of the Raritan river a pleasure, and constitute not the least of the many advantages that Somerville possesses.



SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL.



TEN EYCK HOUSE.



COMMERCIAL HOTEL.



COUNTY HOUSE.



SOMERSET HOUSE.

GROWTH.

While Somerville has never boasted of a large population, yet within a comparatively recent period the growth and improvements that have been made, have caused more than passing comment. Within the last four years a new stone depot (the handsomest on the Central Railroad), several large business blocks, and over two hundred new houses have been erected in the town. These improvements have been made without the excitement or stimulus of any so-called "boom," and have demonstrated beyond doubt, that the future of the town is assured, and there is every reason to believe the prosperity, already so evident, will continue.

The result of this recent growth is everywhere apparent, besides the great activity in building circles, there is also a corresponding activity in all branches of trade, giving a decided air of prosperity and stability to the place.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The Raritan river affords an excellent water supply. As there are no large places above Raritan, through which the river runs, there is no chance for the contamination of the water. Coming direct from the high grounds on the north and west, and being supplied chiefly by mountain brooks, the water is exceptionally pure.

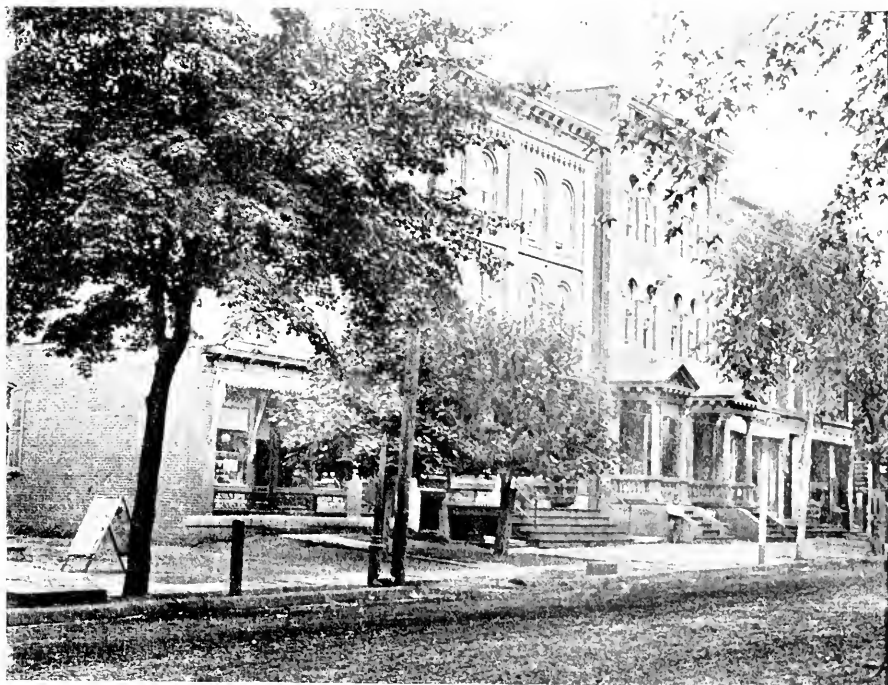
Every place that is provided with an abundant supply of water, needs also to be provided with sewers. Somerville is one of the very few places of its size that is thoroughly sewered. The separate system, which is in use, provides for a periodical and automatic flushing of the mains. The system has worked very satisfactorily and is an improvement the town is proud to possess.

For illumination, both gas and electric lights are used. The electric light plant supplies not only Somerville, but Raritan and Bound Brook.

That a place of this size should have so complete a system of public improvements, embracing every requirement of civic economy, is a remarkable thing. What is still more remarkable, is the fact that with all these it has no debt, and the tax rates are extremely low. The rate for 1890, including a special school tax, was only \$10.80 to the \$1,000. One reason for this happy condition is, that the expenses of extensive public improvements have been met by the sale of public lands, fortunately possessed by the town. Another reason, is in the fact that Somerville is a town and not a city, and has always kept control of itself financially. Economy, integrity and public spirit have secured great improvements without burdensome assessments.

CHURCHES.

There are eight churches of the following denominations: Reformed (Dutch), two; Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, German (Reformed), and African M. E. Zion. All of the churches have substantial structures and are presided over by able and talented preachers.



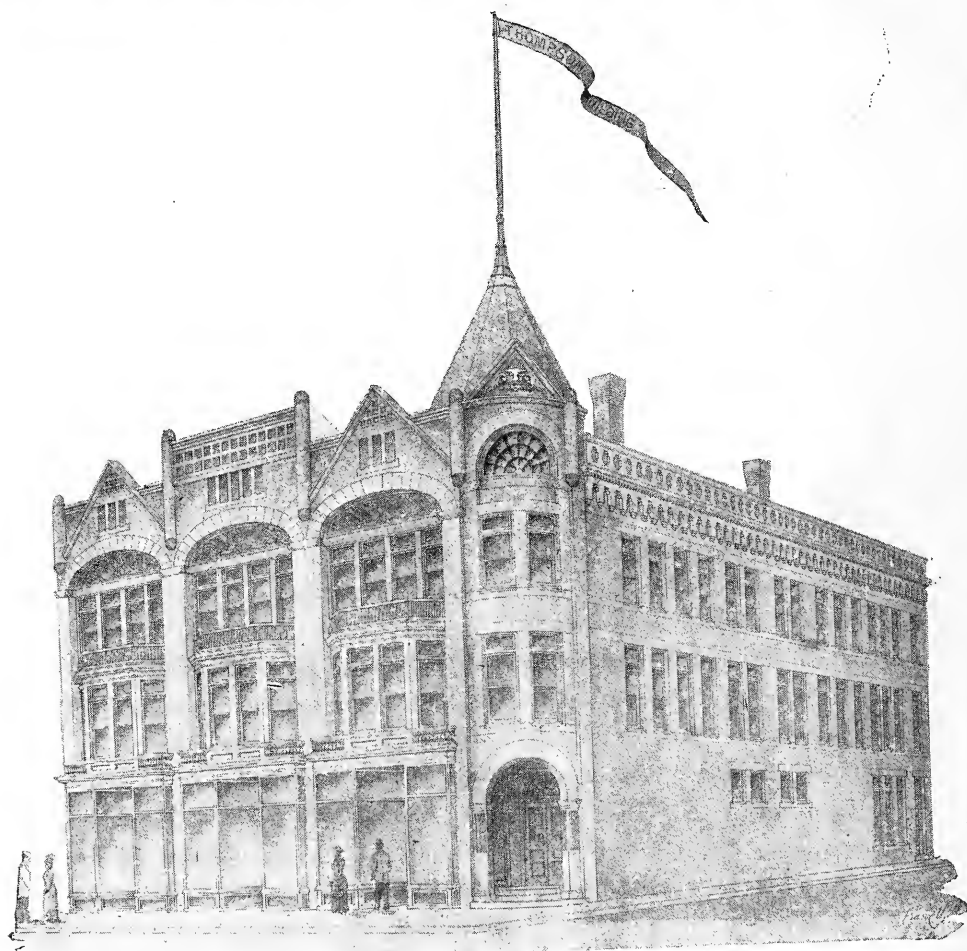
VUE ON MAIN STREET, SHOWING FIRST NATIONAL BANK.



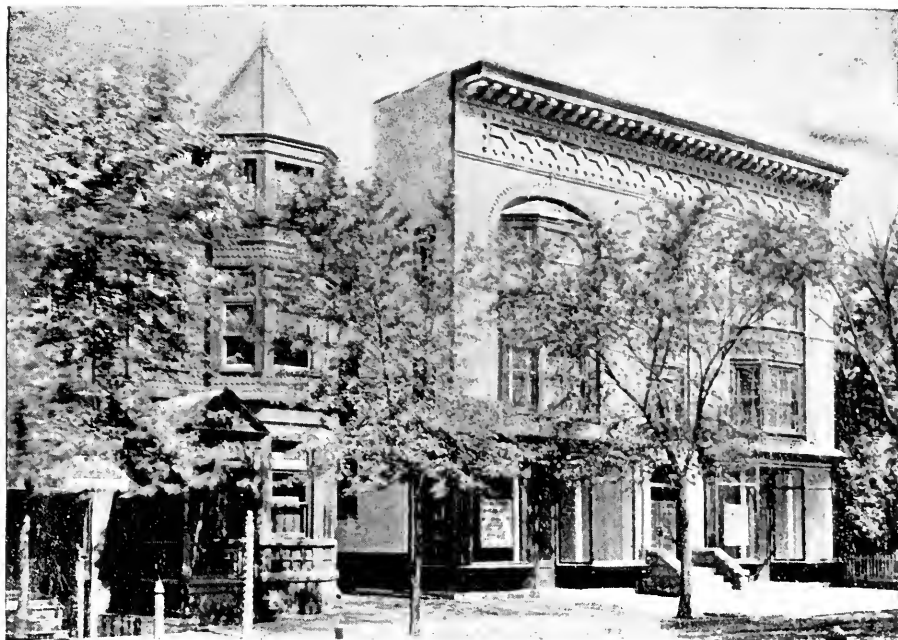
ASSOCIATION HALL BLOCK, MAIN STREET.



BLUE FRONT CLOTHING HOUSE.



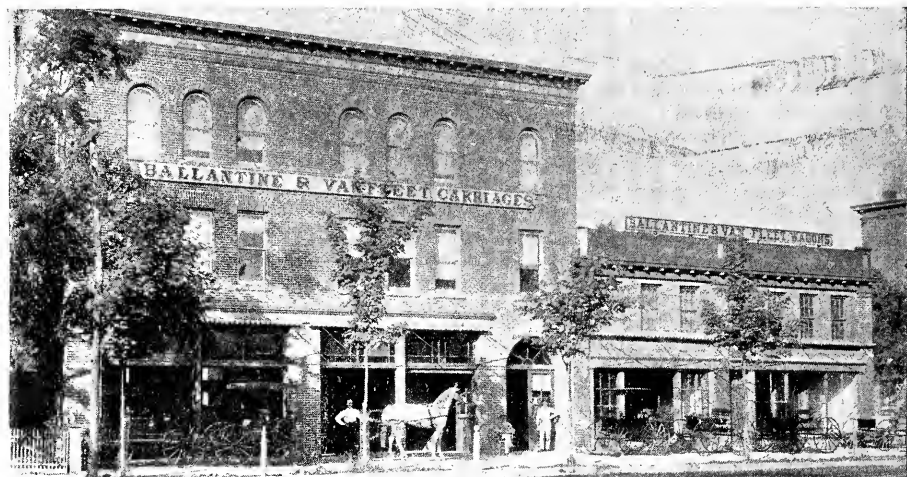
THOMPSON BUILDING, MAIN AND MAPLE STREETS.



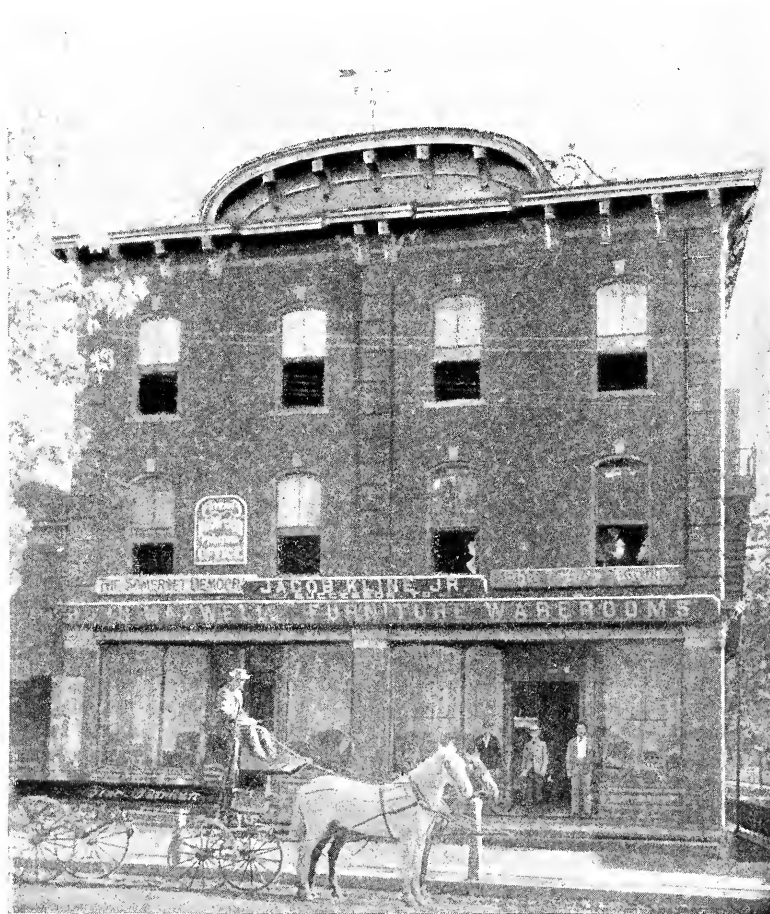
SWINTON BUILDING, MAIN STREET.



TUNISON AND LOSEY, WHOLESALE GROCERS.



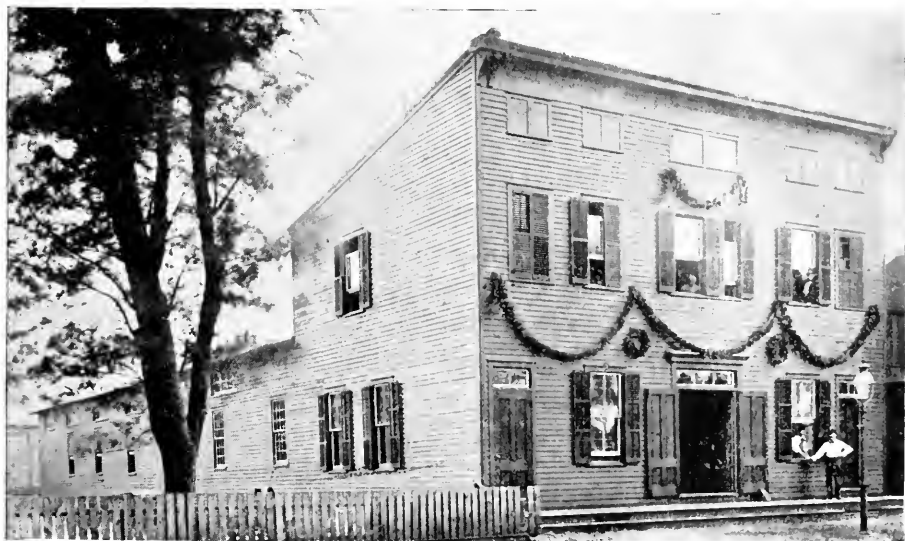
BALLANTINE AND VAN FLEET'S CARRIAGE REPOSITORY.



SOMERSET HALL.



SOMERVILLE WOOLEN MILLS.



ARMORY CO. H.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

The town has a large graded public school, accommodating over 600 pupils, with educational advantages of a high order; also a separate school for the colored population. The Somerville Classical School is a private institution, fitting students for college. It is provided with competent teachers, and draws many pupils from surrounding towns. Besides these there are three primary private schools of high character.

The town also has a fine circulating Library and Free Reading Room, that is well sustained and patronized.

BANKS.

There are two banking institutions, the First National Bank of Somerville, N. J., and the Somerset County Bank, a State institution. Both of them are sound and flourishing.

HOTELS.

The principal hotels are, the Ten Eyck House, Commercial, County House, and the Somerset. All of these houses are strictly first class. In connection with them may be found good livery stables, while the last-mentioned house is provided with a fine Bowling Alley.

PRESS.

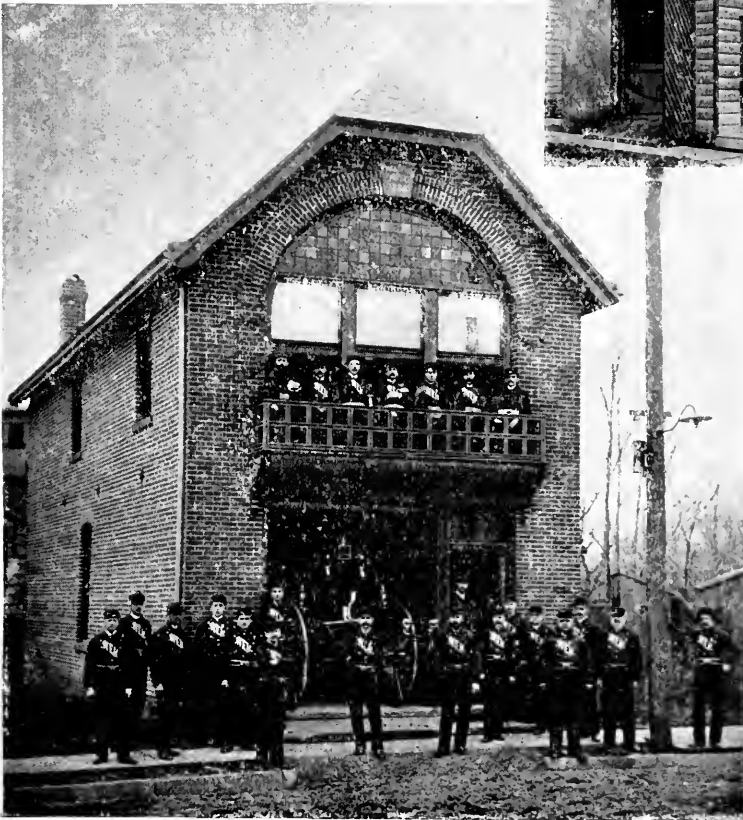
Three weekly newspapers are published in Somerville—*The Unionist-Gazette*, a Republican organ, the *Somerset Messenger*, and the *Somerset Democrat*, both Democratic in politics. The *Jersey Knight*, a monthly paper, which is the official organ of the Knights of Pythias, is also edited and published at the office of the *Democrat*.

CLUBS.

Somerville contains three clubs of high character and repute, besides Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and other beneficiary lodges. The oldest club is the Bachelor Club, which was organized in 1872. It numbers about 75 members, and has a fine suite of rooms in one of the best blocks of the town. It was organized as a social club, and as such has been a success, including the leading professional and business men in the two towns. Its president is the Hon. James J. Bergen, Speaker of the last House of Representatives of this State.

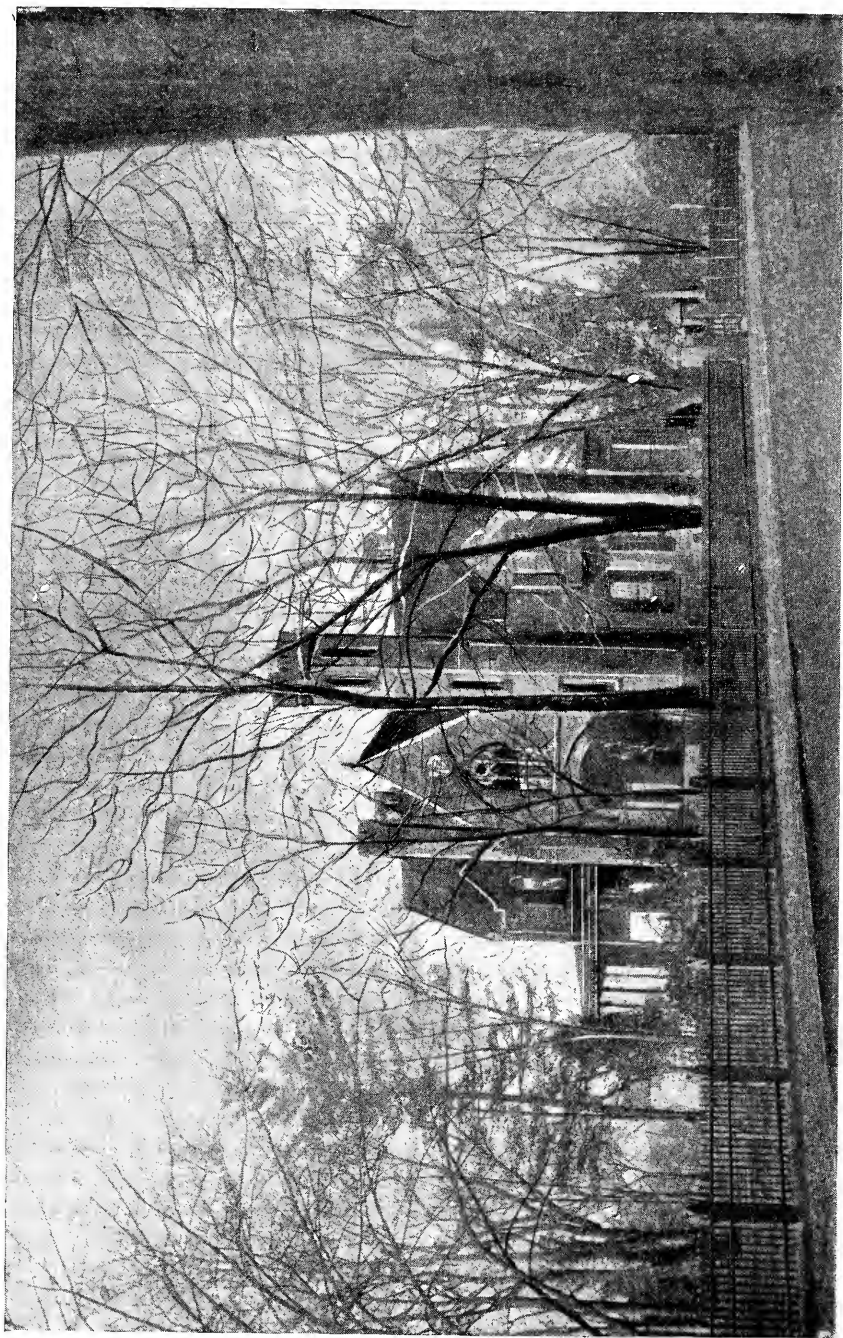
The Union League Club, organized as a Republican Club, contains many men prominent in political, business and social circles. It occupies commodious and well-furnished rooms in Association Hall.

The West End Athletic Association was incorporated in 1887. It has a flourishing membership and is very popular. The club occupies a large and comfortable club house and also has a fine athletic field. These grounds are enclosed and contain a base ball diamond and tennis courts; also a grand stand and "bleaching boards," for the accommodation of the many patrons of the club games. The club has given most of its attention to base ball, holding the N. J. Athletic League championship for 1890.



RELIEF HOSE CO., RARITAN.
WEST END HOSE CO., SOMERVILLE.

SOMERVILLE ENGINE CO.
CENTRAL HOOK AND LADDER CO.



RESIDENCE OF DANIEL ROBERTS, ESQ.



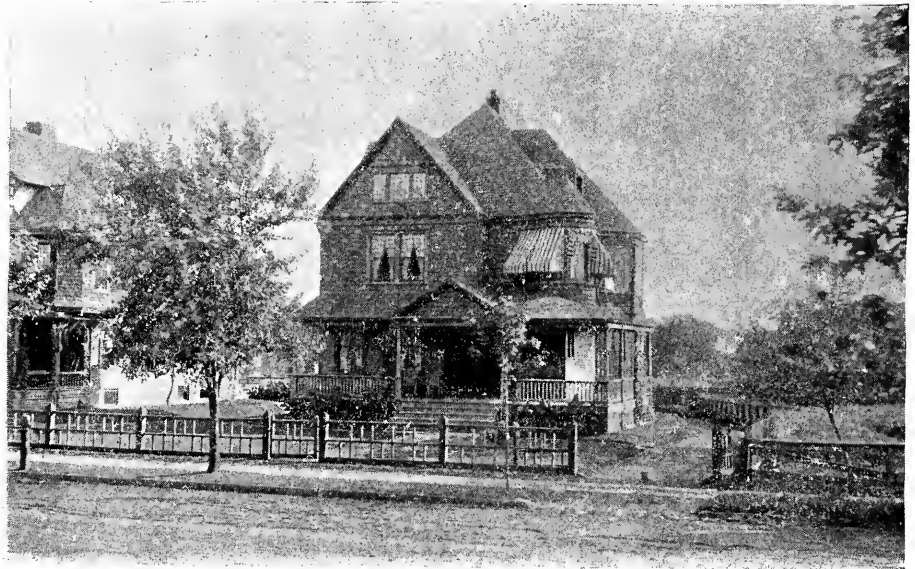
ALTAMONT PLACE, LOOKING WEST.



RESIDENCE OF J. HARPER SMITH, ESQ., ALTAMONT PLACE.



RESIDENCE OF COL. JOHN T. VAN CLEEF,
(PROPERTY OF J. HARPER SMITH),
ALTAMONT PLACE.



RESIDENCE OF J. H. MATTISON, ESQ.,
ALTAMONT PLACE.



RESIDENCE OF EDWIN SCOTT, ESQ.,
ALTAMONT PLACE.



RESIDENCE OF CAPTAIN G. S. COOK,
ALTAMONT PLACE.



RESIDENCE OF ADOLPH W. MACK. ESQ.



INWOOD.—RESIDENCE OF HON. A. A. CLARK.



RESIDENCE OF HON. JAS. J. BERGEN.



RESIDENCE OF MISS CLARA LINDSLEY.

MILITIA.

Company H, of the Third Regiment, N. G. N. J., is located here. It was organized in 1888, with 53 men, with G. S. Cook as captain. The company is finely drilled and contains a number of expert marksmen. In 1890 it ranked as the best in the Regiment for discipline, efficiency and marksmanship, and seventh in the State as to marksmanship. It has a well appointed and commodious armory on Somerset street.

FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

There is no better volunteer fire department in the State than in Somerville. The various companies occupy separate buildings in different parts of the town. The Somerville Engine Company and the West End Hose Company, both have elegant rooms in their buildings that are provided with all the conveniences of a club, while the Central Hook and Ladder Company occupy comfortable quarters in the Somerset Hall building. The Chief of the Department is L. M. Codington, who has held that office for several years.

Beside the protection from fire, the town is guarded by a uniformed police force, sufficient to maintain good order in the place.

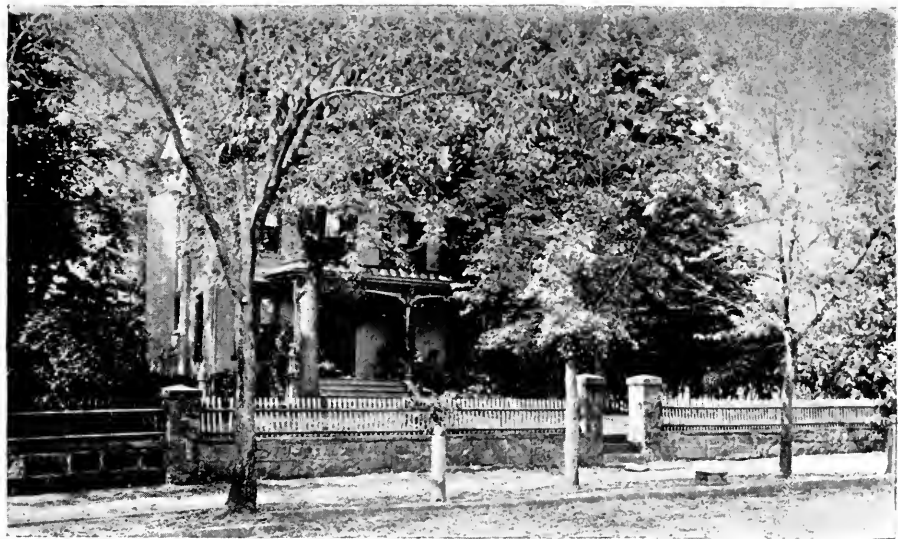
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual fair of Somerset County is held at Somerville, on the grounds of the Somerset County Agricultural Society, located only a short distance from the town. The grounds contain numerous exhibition buildings for fair purposes, and a fine one-half mile race track, with immense stable buildings in connection. Evidence of the prosperity of the rural population of Somerset County may be seen by the fine exhibit of farm produce and live stock at the fairs of this association.

RESIDENCES.

Somerville has long enjoyed the distinction of containing a number of handsome houses, and a tour of the principal resident streets would amply verify this statement. On all sides may be seen comfortable dwellings with tasteful lawns, while frequently interspersed may be seen many a residence bearing evidence of wealth and distinction. The abundant views of Somerville homes, contained in this volume, portray more accurately than could be described in words, the many delightful spots in this vicinity.





RESIDENCE OF MAJ. E. J. ANDERSON.



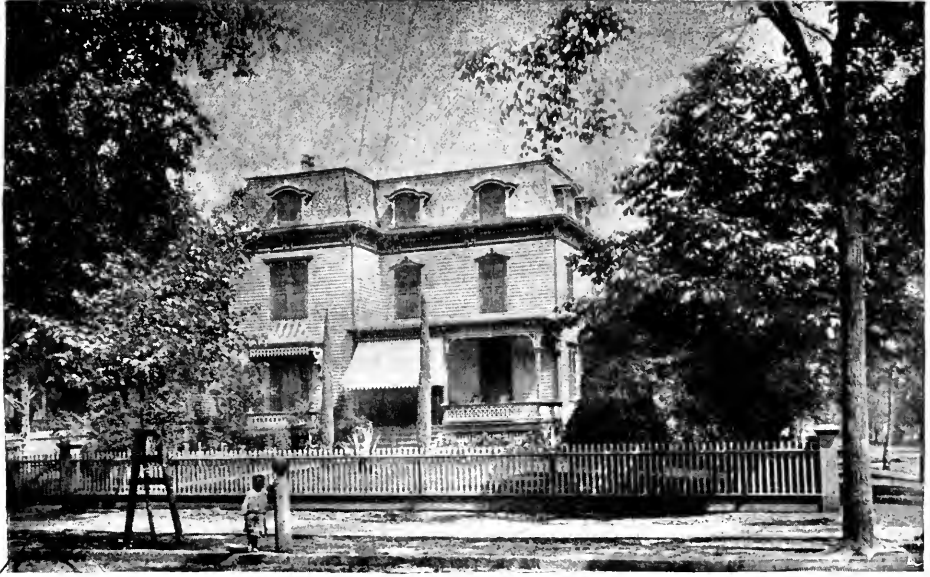
RESIDENCE OF J. W. BALLANTINE, ESQ.



HIGH STREET, NEAR BAPTIST CHURCH, LOOKING WEST.



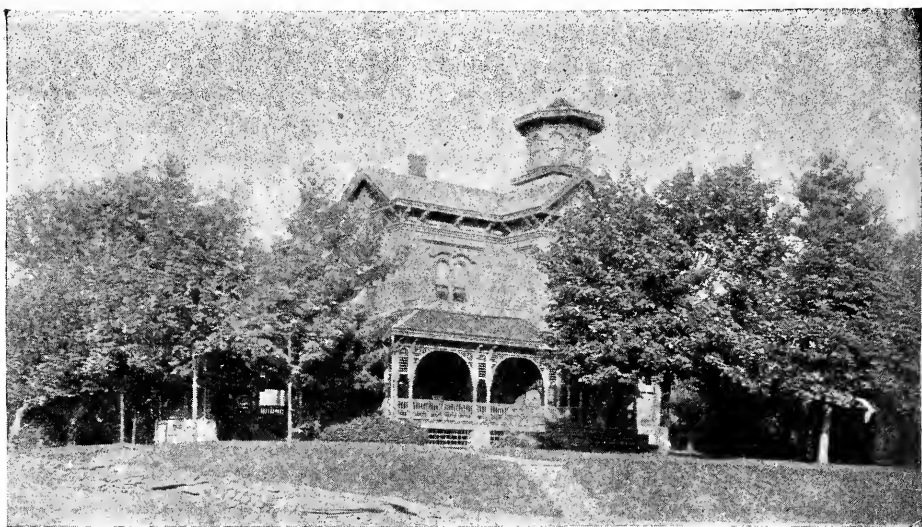
RESIDENCE OF JAMES ADAIR, ESQ.



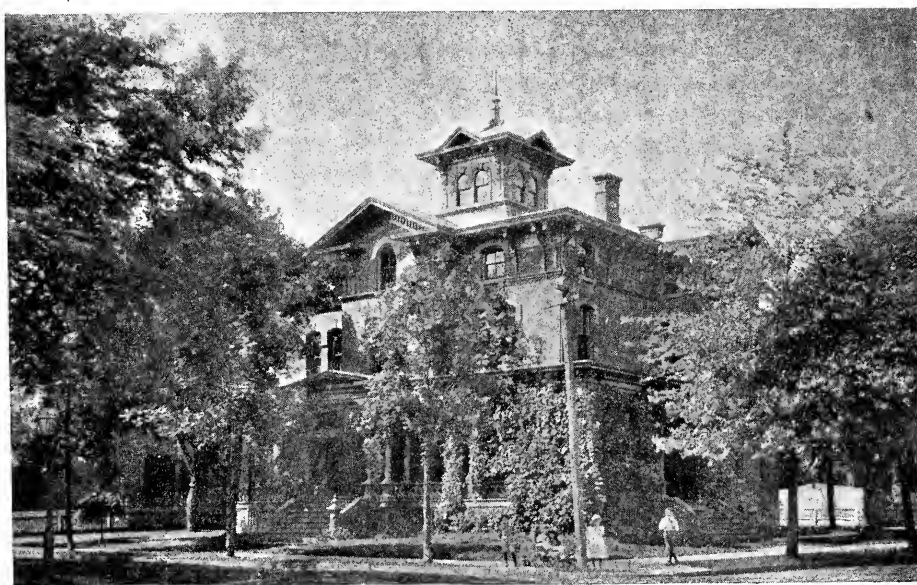
RESIDENCE OF WM. S. POTTER, ESQ.



RESIDENCES OF COL. A. S. TEN EYCK AND J. V. D. TEN EYCK.



RESIDENCE OF C. STEWART HOFFMAN, ESQ.



RESIDENCE OF D. K. CRAIG, ESQ.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE ANDERSON, ESQ.



RESIDENCE OF W. H. CAWLEY, ESQ.



RESIDENCE OF DUMONT FRELINGHUYSEN, ESQ.



RESIDENCE OF J. B. CORNELL, ESQ.



RESIDENCE OF G. A. YAWGER, ESQ.



ROSS PROPERTY.
(FOR SALE BY CARMER, LOOMIS & CO.)



FINDERNE PARK, EAST SOMERVILLE, N. J.



SOMERSET COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS.

RARITAN.

Raritan, N. J., is located one-half mile west of Somerville, and has connection with it by rail, and also by a stage making trips every half hour. The town possesses the same advantages as Somerville, but differs from it as it contains a number of large mills and factories, and the population is composed to a great extent of the operatives.

For a manufacturing town it is a beautiful place. The streets are clean and well shaded, the buildings substantial, and the churches and schools equal in every respect to those in Somerville.

Most of the large mills are located together upon the river bank, and somewhat removed from the business and residence portion.

The town is governed by a Board of Commissioners, and its finances are in good condition.

There is a fine graded public school, besides a Parochial school connected with St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, both having substantial buildings. There are three churches, the Third Reformed (Dutch), the Methodist Episcopal, and Roman Catholic, all having well-appointed houses of worship.

The Raritan river furnishes an abundant water power. The river is dammed about three miles above the town, making a reservoir from eighty to one hundred and fifty feet in width, terminating at Raritan with sluice gates at the lower end. At present there are five different manufacturing plants using this power. The largest of these mills are those of the Somerset Manufacturing Company and the Raritan Woolen Mills, separate corporations that furnish employment for about 1,500 hands. The large machine shops of Kinyon Bros., manufacturing all sorts of woolen machinery, form also an extensive industry. The American Farm Implement Company, a flourishing concern, employ a number of hands and ship goods to all parts of the world. Here are also located the works of the New Jersey Enamel Paint Company, that manufacture and ship paints to all of the Eastern states. These great industries are steadily prosperous, are never idle, keep the town always active and therefore contribute greatly to the business life of Somerville, as well as Raritan.

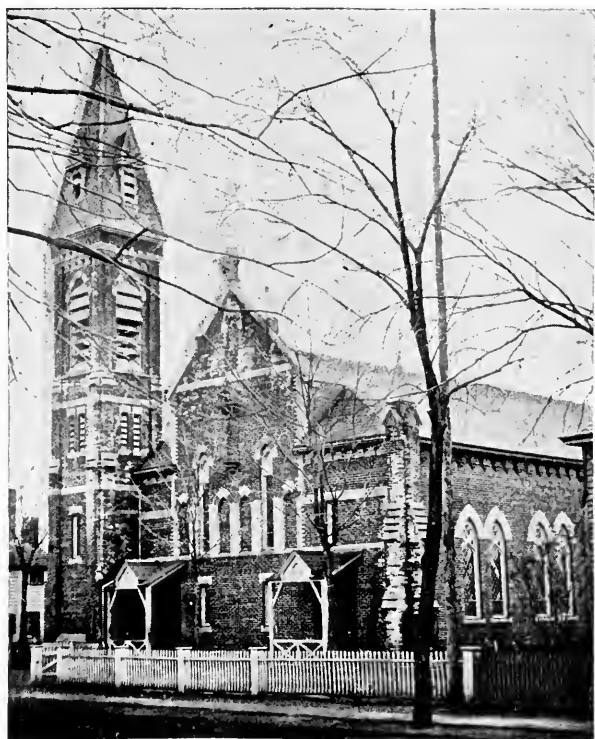
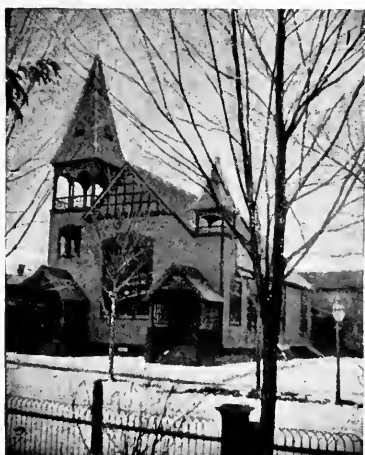
The Somerville Water Company have their works here and the large stand pipe, 140 feet in height, is a landmark for miles around.

Ample protection from fire is afforded by the Relief Hose Company, located here.

Raritan has many excellent stores, which do a large business, the mill operatives always securing steady wages and proving the best of customers

The proximity of the river and reservoir add greatly to the beauty of the place, and offer admirable facilities for boating and fishing.

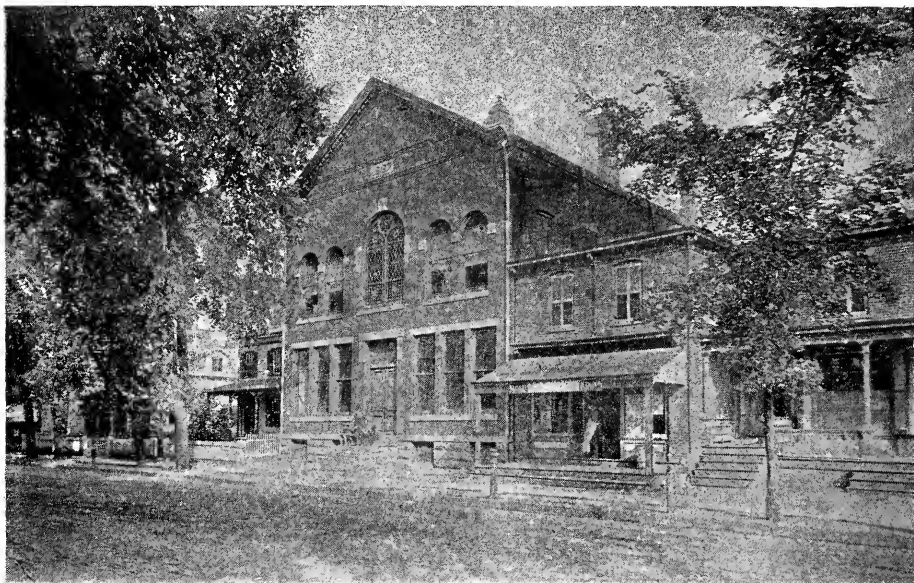
No description of Raritan would be complete, which should omit reference to the numerous stock farms in the valley of the Raritan river, above the town. Horsemen have a special regard to this section of country, for the rearing and training of fine stock. Here business men from the city put their wealth into fancy farming and fancy stock. Nearly every farm has its private training track, and the stables are full of splendid horseflesh.



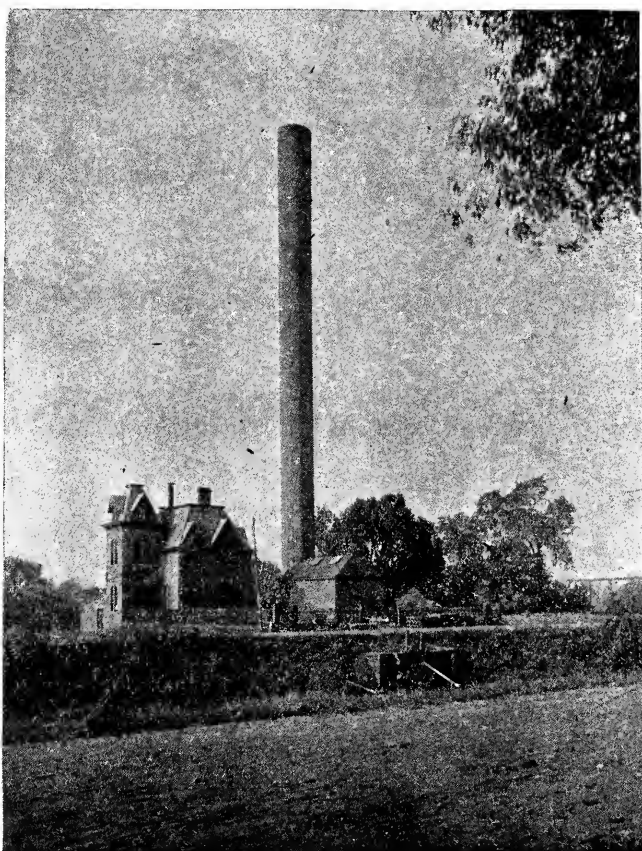
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH.

ST. BERNARD'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.



PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SOMERSET STREET.



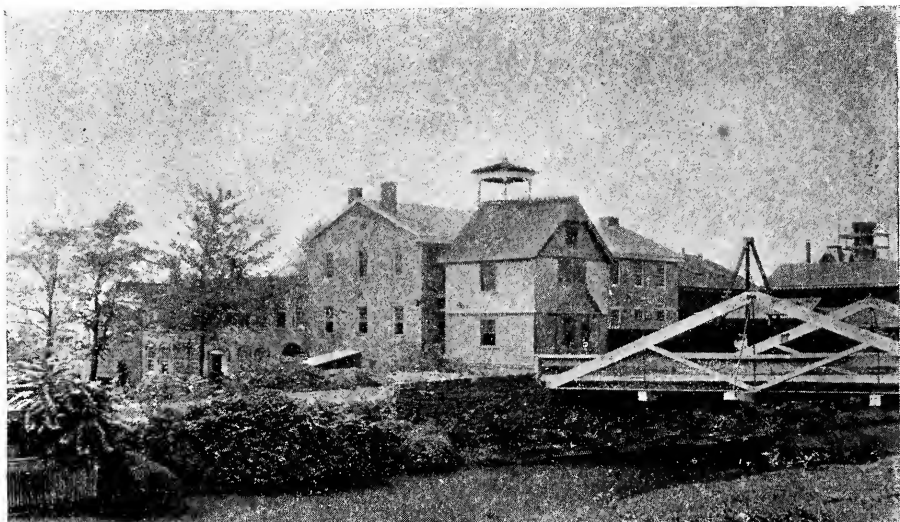
STAND PIPE, SOMERVILLE WATER COMPANY.



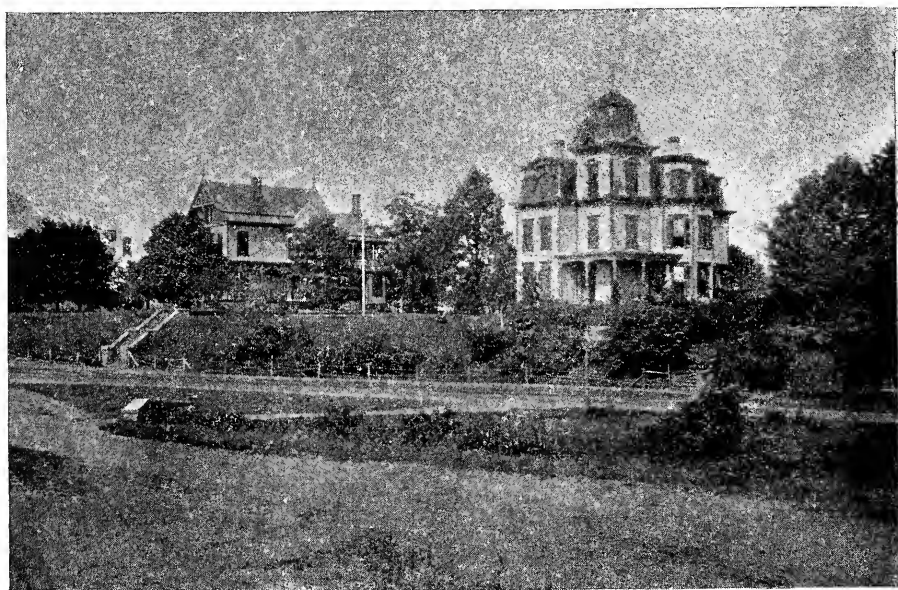
MILL OF SOMERSET MANUFACTURING COMPANY.



RARITAN WOOLEN MILLS.



KINYON BROS.' MACHINE SHOPS.



RESIDENCES OF JOB AND RANDOLPH KINYON, NORTH SOMERSET STREET.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. F. J. FRELINGHUYSEN, RARITAN HEIGHTS.



RESIDENCE OF STEPHEN E. GARRETSON, ESQ., RARITAN ROAD.

HISTORICAL.

*The classic days, those mothers of romance
That roused a nation for a woman's glance,
The age of mystery, with its hoarded power,
That girt the tyrant in his storied tower,
Have passed and faded like a dream of youth,
And riper eras ask for history's truth.*

—HOLMES.

SOMERSET County was so long part of the battle-ground of the Revolution, and so many glorious recollections are connected with history about this locality in those stirring times, that the compilers have concluded to devote a part of this work to a description of the events which transpired, as well as their location.

While no great or decisive battles were ever fought in this county, still it was here that Washington made several moves in the great game he was playing that eventually resulted in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Monmouth, Red Bank, Little Egg Harbor and Springfield.

In connection with this we will speak of several Revolutionary houses in this locality; also some that, while they have no immediate connection with historical events, were standing during those interesting times, and in all probability played some part in them.

WALLACE HOUSE.

In the summer and fall of 1778 William Wallace built the mansion in Somerville since known as the Caleb Miller house. It is situated on a rise of ground overlooking the lowlands of the Raritan river, in the west end of the town of Somerville, and on the main road to Raritan. It is a quaint old frame dwelling, painted white. A picture of it is shown in the group. It is almost entirely hidden by shade trees.

General Washington and wife spent here the winter of 1778-1779, rooms being fitted up expressly for their use. At this house Washington and his Generals planned the campaign so successfully carried out by General Sullivan in 1779.

* During that fall of 1778 the Commander-in-Chief, not being able to find a building in the vicinity of Bound Brook or Middlebrook—the location of his camp—ample enough for his purpose, established his quarters at the Wallace house, then barely completed.

Besides the Wallace house and the Reformed Dutch Church parsonage (described as the Doughty house) two other dwellings and a tavern on the site of the Somerset House were the only buildings where now flourishes the county seat.

The parlor of the Wallace house remains to this day in all respects the same as it was when occupied by the Father of his Country.

* We quote from the "Story of an Old Farm."

STOCK FARM OF SENATOR WM. J. KEYS, SOUTH BRANCH.



VAN VEGHTEN HOUSE.

This old house was built early in the last century by Derrick Van Veghten, an eminent citizen of the county, who died December 6th, 1781, in the eighty-second year of his age. He was very patriotic and did not complain, when, in the winter of 1778-79, an entire division of the American army was quartered upon his possessions. The valuable timber was almost entirely destroyed, being used for fuel and for the construction of log huts for the protection of officers and men. No compensation for the loss was ever demanded or given.

The house is located midway between Bound Brook and Somerville, on the banks of the Raritan river, a short distance southwest of the railroad station at Finderne, about 200 yards from the historical bridge that bears the name of the first owner of this old house, described further on. This house is built entirely of brick brought from Holland by the old Dutch settlers, and although bearing many marks of age, the walls are firm and sound upon their foundation to this day, and its roof still shelters some honest tiller of the soil. It was the privilege of the writer to visit this old house during the past year, and although age has left its mark on many portions of the house, still the walls, casements, fireplaces, doors and sills are in a splendid state of preservation. The rooms are large and still have that pleasant look that attaches itself to old dwellings.

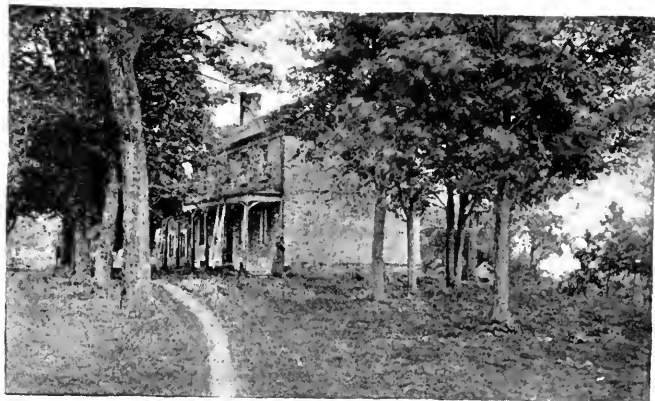
During the Revolution this homestead, which was then a very old dwelling, was the centre of a bounteous hospitality. It was occupied during the winters of 1777-78 by General Green, and we read many descriptions of the splendid entertainments given by the young, talented and beautiful wife of one of Washington's greatest Generals.

General and Mrs. Washington, General Wayne and many other prominent officers were guests at this old house, and a letter written by General Greene in the spring of 1779 tells us that here, on one occasion, Washington danced for three hours with Mrs. Greene without sitting down.

The owner of this old house was born in 1699, and died in 1781. He is buried near the old bridge. A group of several large trees still stand sentinel over his tomb, which is located in the middle of an otherwise treeless field. On his tomb-stone is this inscription :

In Memory of Mr Der
rick Van Veghten who died
the 29th day of Novem^r
A D 1781 aged 82 Years
4 Mons & 14 Days.

Many were his friends and few his enemies,
Great was his soul and good his faculties,
Fair Health on him her blessing did bestow
And in his cheeks her ruddy charms did glow
Till Age the hand of death did deprive,
Which neither spares the great, the good or wise,
His tranquil mind composedly reclined,
And to his God his breath and soul resigned.



COEJEMANS HOUSE.

FRELINGHUYSEN HOMESTEAD.

RESIDENCE OF T. W. CHAMBERS, D. D.

WALLACE HOUSE.

DOUGHTY HOUSE.

VAN VEGHTEN'S BRIDGE.

We cannot pass from the description of the old Van Veghten house without devoting a few lines to the bridge which now spans the Raritan at Finderne. It occupies the place of one that existed in the time of the Revolution, and was then known by that name, because both ends rested upon lands owned by Derrick Van Veghten, a description of whose character we give in the preceding chapter.

It was near this historical bridge that the First Reformed Church stood, which was burned by Colonel Simcoe at the head of a partisan corps, in 1776, after a preliminary skirmish at the bridge. Over the bridge marched soldiers of both sides in that great cause, with cannon and supply wagons. Washington crossed here on the march to Morristown, after the battle of Princeton.

COEJEMANS HOUSE.

One of the oldest houses in this vicinity is the Coejemans house. It is still standing on the north bank of the Reservoir, at Raritan, near the Raritan Woolen Mills. It was built by Andrew Coejemans in 1736, with bricks brought from Holland, and remained in possession of this man until 1804. It is now occupied by Mrs. A. M. Bartolette.

This house and the farm originally surrounding it was for many years occupied by the Rev. John Vredenburg, a useful and highly-respected minister of the Gospel, whose services as minister of the church in Somerville were long held in affectionate remembrance by his people. He died in 1819 and it was years before his place was supplied.

DOUGHTY HOUSE.

The old house owned by the family of the late Joshua Doughty, is situated in Somerville, near the tracks of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, at the foot of the avenue bearing the name of the Doughty family. It is a substantial brick structure, built in 1751, by the Rev. John Frelinghuysen, the bricks having been imported from Holland. At this house was really commenced the first Theological Seminary of the Dutch Reformed Church, which culminated in the founding of Rutgers College.

During the Revolution the Rev. Dr. Jacob R. Hardenburg resided here, as pastor of the First Reformed Church of Raritan. He was acquainted with Washington, and many were the visits made to the Rev. Doctor and his accomplished wife by the Commander-in-Chief. On a corner stone of this house are cut the figures "1751."

The building was used for a parsonage for many years, but afterwards was sold. For a long time it was occupied by Dr. Stryker, a physician of great eminence. From him it passed into the possession of the late Joshua Doughty, whose family still hold it. Many of the doors and mantels still remain as they were made in 1751, and are a pleasing evidence of the taste and skill of our forefathers.



CHIMNEY ROCK GAP.



DERRICK VAN VEGHTEN'S BRIDGE.

FRELINGHUYSEN HOMESTEAD.

This quaint old house of the eighteenth century, located between Somerville and Raritan, is one that will immediately attract attention. The house is built of brick with frame addition—its large hall, winding stair case and wooden mantels being objects of interest. Entering the large room, now used as a parlor, you see a large colonial mantel with open fireplace and stone hearth beneath.

It is painted a snow-white and you gaze at it with added interest when you are informed that its symmetrical and somewhat intricate pattern was carved with a penknife, by some skillful workman, many years before. The rooms on the first floor are large and the ceiling high. In the garret yet may be found old spinning wheels, clothes presses and the antiquated hoops worn in those ancient times. Looking at the house from the east end you see the substantial brick wall supporting the gabled roof, making a very picturesque view. The house and grounds are well shaded with trees, shrubs and bushes.

On this place are species of walnut, hickory, chestnut and horse chestnut trees, and also a fine collection of fruit trees. Time has changed many of the old places in these historic towns, but this old homestead and its surroundings still retains its pristine loveliness.

CHIMNEY ROCK.

About three miles below Somerville there is a picturesque gorge through the range of hills known as the Blue Hills. At one side of this gorge rises a rock or peak familiarly known as Chimney Rock, probably from its resemblance to that essential necessity to a habitation. So that it might be more vividly outlined on the minds of visitors, some profane hand, not appreciating the beauties of inanimate nature, has faithfully whitewashed it for years, and still continues the task, renewing the coat every spring, after the storms of winter have defaced and partially beaten off this artificial surface.

From this high rock an extended view for miles can be seen, and this spot has long been the favorite picnic grounds for the surrounding country. It also lends added interest to know that from this point Washington viewed the retreat of his army when pursued by the seemingly irresistible Howe, and here in this gorge he made the stand that resulted in that great English General evacuating the State for that year.

In view of all this, it is but fitting and proper that the legend that attaches itself to this rock, should be here related: * History informs us, that the 1,200 Indians of the Raritan were presided over by two kings, and that they were the deadly enemies of the Manhatae. The two Raritan chiefs were named Canackamack and Thingorawis, according to the signatures affixed to the deeds of Indian title. Tradition gives the origin of the feud between the two tribes, who had long dwelt in amity. Long prior to the time of the kings above named, a son of the king of the Manhatae, with a hunting party, fell in with a similar party of the Raritans.

* Condensed from an article written by Rev. Abram Messler, deceased, in 1841.



CHIMNEY ROCK.

After several days of friendly companionship, during which the young Manhata chief was a guest in the wigwam of the king of the Raritans, the latter promised him the hand of his only daughter, the beautiful Chinqueka ("Goldfinch"), as his bride. The youth and the maiden learned to love and happily passed the summer. But Manasamitt, an inferior chief of the Raritans, who also loved the maiden and had long designed winning her for himself, grew jealous of the lovers and determined to avenge his loss upon the favored suitor. An opportunity soon presented. Returning one evening from the hunt he discovered the lovers sitting, as was often their wont, upon the ledge of rocks, gazing upon the limpid waters far below. The maiden fled, and then alone with his rival he buried his hatchet in his brain and rolled the body down the precipice. Great was the grief of Chinqueka. She refused to be comforted and sought the spot where last she and her lover sat together, and where he met his fate. There she fancied she heard him calling her to come to him; she plunged in the dark chasm and disappeared forever. When the king of the Manhattae heard of his son's tragic death at the hands of the Raritan brave, his rage was great, and he resolved to wage war against that tribe until the spirit of his murdered son was appeased.

In this book will be found a picture of this interesting spot. Here it was that the great and immortal Washington, pursued by the victorious Howe, selected, with the eye of a great General, the excellent position, called Camp Middlebrook in the annals of history.

In this gorge, running between two spurs of the Blue Hills, the only outlet from the Washington valley to that of Raritan, Washington selected this position to make the stand against the onslaught of the English and protect his troops during the winter. From Roundtop on the east and the high point now called Chimney Rock, he could look far off to the south, right in the very camps of the British. In the rear, protecting the valley and just near the present site of Martinville, he threw up two fortifications. One has been plowed over by some industrious tiller of the soil, but the other has been preserved by the owner of the farm, who has more respect for the sacredness of the spot. By means of these forts he could protect his troops from any flank movement of the enemy, or any attack from the rear.

Thus intrenched in this strong position, with a wall of mountain on each side, he could reconnoiter from any point and would be the first to discover the weak points of the enemy before they had a chance to find it out themselves.

Thus, briefly, in the preceding pages have been described the historical events in this region. We could tell many more stories and legends connected with this grand old county had we the space, but we have only attempted to describe the outlines of them truthfully, and we know that we have not dropped one link from Memory's golden chain. The last scene of all that completes this eventful history is the

❖❖END.❖❖

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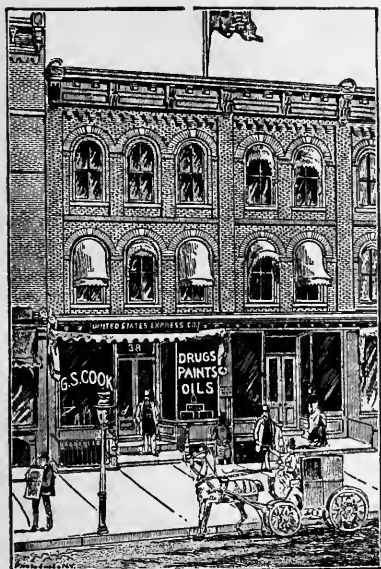
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	<hr/>
	\$119,617
Due Depositors,	109,188
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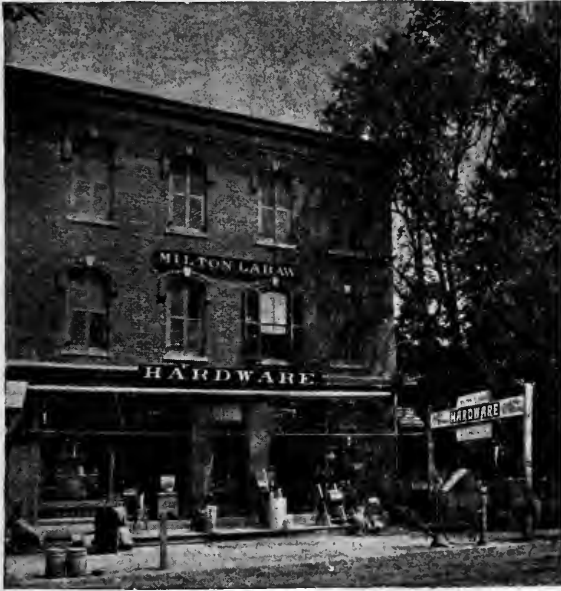
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Phoenix Assurance Co., of London, Eng.	Capital, \$359,594.	Net Surplus, \$452,153.

AGENT FOR THE

Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

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THE LEADING
MILLINER,
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MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES and CEMETERY
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Goods delivered free of charge in all
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I Challenge any House in My Line of Goods in the State of New Jersey to Show a More Complete Stock of

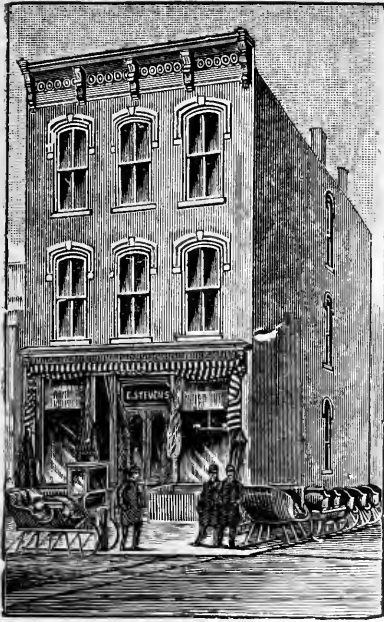
Fine Harness,

HORSE BOOTS, TURF GOODS, BLANKETS
and ROBES, SADDLERY and HAR-
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At Lower Prices than I Offer at my Warerooms,

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ESTABLISHED 1875.

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N. B. RICHARDSON,

- Grocer, -

206 West Main Street.

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For QUALITY OF GOODS, FAIR DEALING, REASONABLE PRICES and TRUTH-
FUL REPRESENTATION the Reputation of this House is Unsurpassed.

Somerville is now preserved—Are you?

A genuine crayon is quite the thing; or a quantity of cabinets, if you are more liberal to friends than self. Any need supplied at

APGAR'S Old-Established Gallery,

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TUNISON & LOSEY,

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Provisions, Produce, &c.,

PARK BUILDING,

(Opposite Depot),

Somerville, N. J.

A. G. ANDERSON & CO.,

—DEALERS IN—

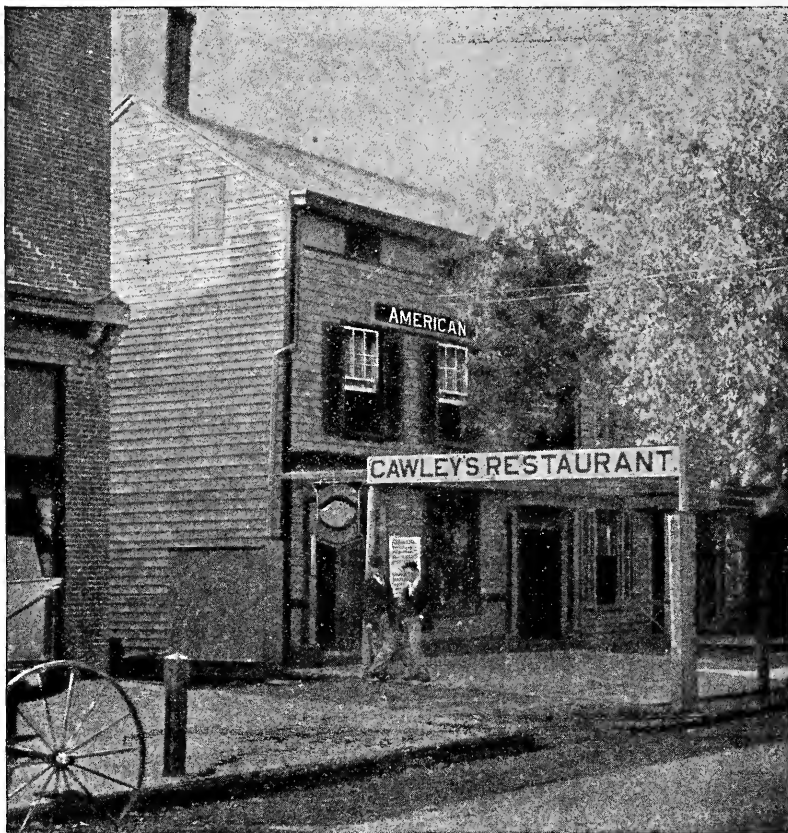
Lumber AND Coal

Fertilizers, Masons' Materials, Seeds, Posts and Rails,
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Somerville, N. J.

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COMPRESSED **YEAST**
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❖❖❖ **RESTAURANT** ❖❖❖

On the European Plan.

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Manufacturers of All Kinds of MINERAL

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All Grades of Lime and Cement.

ANDERSON STREET, NEAR RAILROAD,

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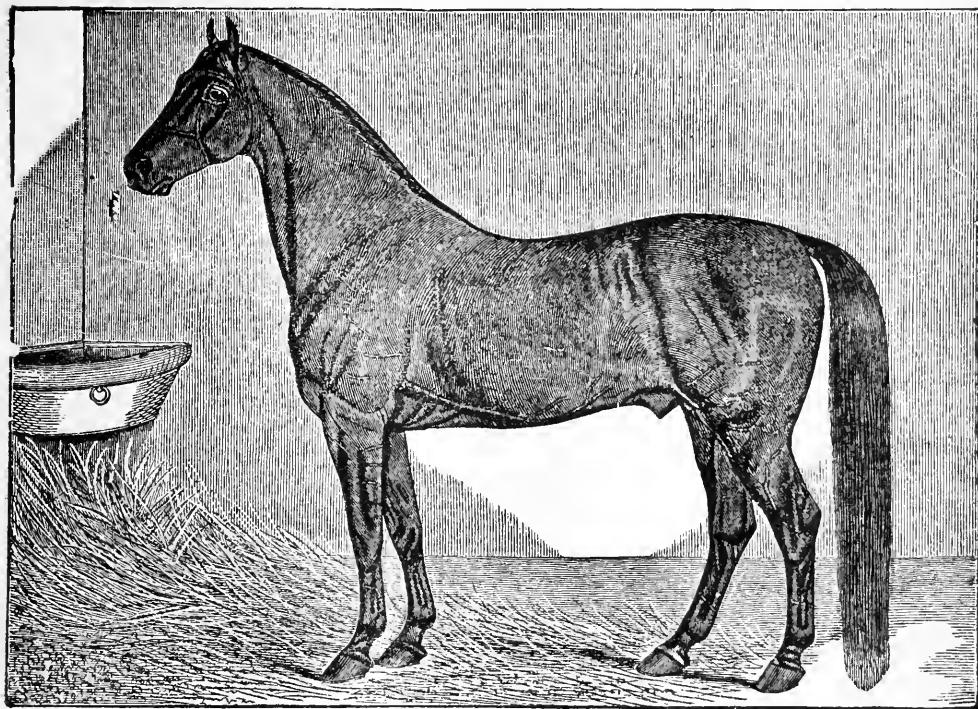
Base Ball Goods, Confectionery, Etc.,

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ELLIS STOCK FARM.



DUTCH JIM, 2:34 1-4.

Dutch Jim,	Record, 2:34 $\frac{1}{4}$. Sire, Black Dutchman. Dam, Lady, by Col. Mott	Fee, \$50.
Gov. Abbett,	PRIZE WINNER, Waverly State Fair and Somerset Co. Agricultural Society, 1891. Sire, Regalia, by Jay Gould, 2:21 $\frac{1}{4}$. Dam, Lady Mont, by Mammoth	Fee, \$50.
Luke Fleet, 6298,	PRIZE WINNER, Waverly State Fair and Somerset Co. Agricultural Society, 1891. Sire, Smuggler, 2:15 $\frac{3}{4}$. Dam, Fanny Goldsmith, by Edward Everett	Fee, \$25.
Fiddler Ford, 7228,	FIRST PRIZE WINNER, 1887-8-9-90-91. Sire, Volunteer Clay 1600. Dam by Knickerbocker 200, by Hambletonian 10	Fee, \$25.
Charley Ellis,	FIRST PRIZE WINNER, 1888-9-90-91. Sire, Kernwood, by Wedgewood. Dam, Anna M., by Broken Legs, by Hambletonian 10	Fee, \$50.
Ellis Bayonne,	FIRST PRIZE WINNER, 1890-91. Sire, Bayonne Prince, 2:21 $\frac{1}{4}$, by Kentucky Prince. Dam, Lenore, by Niagara Chief	Fee, \$25.
Mingo,	FIRST PRIZE WINNER, 1891. Sire, Kentucky Dictator 5758, by Dictator 113. Dam, Claretta, by Blackwood 74, Dam, Lady Mingo	Fee, \$25.
Blizzard Prince,	FIRST PRIZE WINNER, 1891. Sire, Bayonne Prince, 2:21 $\frac{1}{4}$, by Kentucky Prince. Dam, Emily H.	Fee, \$25.
Alfred,	Sire, Tarquin 1572, son of Chosrose 735. Dam, Kit, by Arabian Chief, son of Toronto 85	Fee, \$25.

YOUNG STOCK FOR SALE.

USUAL RETURN PRIVILEGE GRANTED.

45 HEAD OF STANDARD MARES AND STALLIONS FOR SALE.

Address PETER S. HYLER, Superintendent,
Or WM. J. KEYS, South Branch, Somerset Co., N. J.

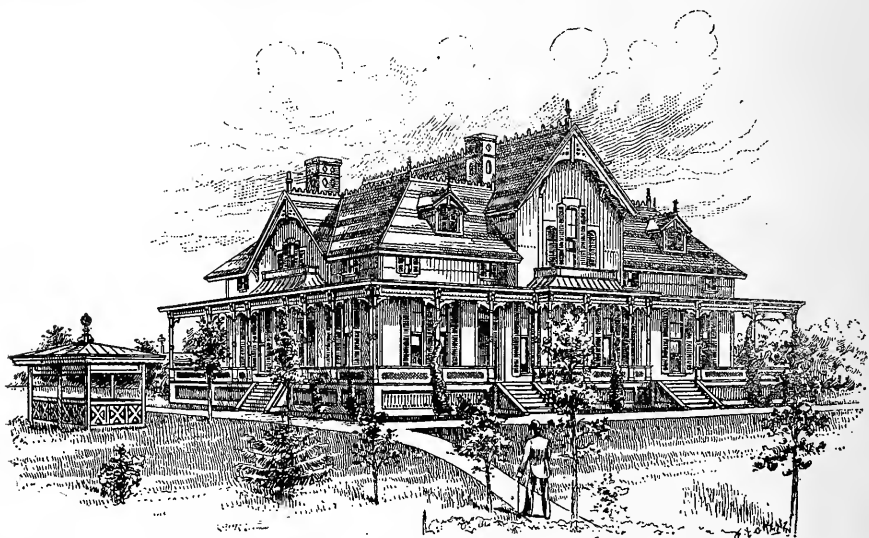
❖ FINDERNE PARK ❖

This beautiful tract of land, containing two hundred and fifty acres, is being developed according to the plans of Samuel McElroy, the distinguished topographical engineer of Brooklyn; General Egbert L. Viele, the well-known sanitary expert of New York, and Benjamin S. Church, the late chief engineer of the New York Croton Aqueduct.

The natural advantages of the location are unequaled by any property along the line of the New Jersey Central Railroad. The elevation of this entire tract—all of it lying, as it does, higher than either Bound Brook or Somerville—the dry air with its tonic properties, the fine views of the Sourland, Wachung and Pickel mountains, all combine to make this an ideal place of residence for the business man. It well deserves the name given to the highest point of this elevated plateau over a century ago, of

“MOUNT PLEASANT.”

The charms of this unique location have been enhanced by the selection of this elevation for the purposes of a hotel; the residences of Mr. John C. Shaw and Mr. Darwin R. James, having been remodeled and refurbished for that purpose. A large building, now on the premises, is to be converted into a Casino, with, bowling alleys, billiard tables, swimming baths, gymnasium, music and dancing hall, with twenty-five sleeping rooms; affording to the neighborhood a place of entertainment, with the advantages only to be found in a Country Club.



Finderne Park Hotel, Casino and Cottages.

The work of improving the plot of forty acres, adjoining the depot and lying between the turnpike and the railroad, is nearly completed. All the streets have been constructed of a uniform width of sixty feet, the roadway being thirty feet, and each of the sidewalks fifteen feet in width. Trees will be planted, sidewalks paved and roadways macadamized, thus making the neighborhood in this respect the equal of the most favored suburban properties.

It is contemplated in the near future to lay water and sewer pipes and to introduce the electric light.

All the lots will be sold with restrictions, ensuring to all purchasers freedom from many of the objectionable features of similar enterprises. The lots have been laid out on a generous scale, being fifty by two hundred feet in size.

A portion of the lots adjacent to the railroad will be reserved for the purposes of a

PUBLIC PARK.

The lot on the corner of the Turnpike (which will be named Somerset Avenue), and the road leading to the depot (which will be called Finderne Avenue), will be reserved for the purposes of a church, and a plot of lots surrounding the large brick house will be also reserved for the purposes of a school.

PROSPECTUS AND MAPS will be furnished on application to

FINDERNE PARK, Finderne, N. J.

“WEST END PARK.”

We have the exclusive sale of the Barcalow and Cornell subdivisions. This property adjoins Altamont Place, with its handsome residences, and is particularly desirable for the home-seeker or the investor. The land is high and dry, commanding delightful views of the adjoining towns and mountains. The sales already made and the houses erected establish the character of the neighborhood. Lots 100 x 150, and 100 x 200, on wide avenues, are offered at very reasonable figures and easy terms.

The South Side Subdivision,

Comprising 150 lots in the Garretson Tract, 50 x 150 feet each, not five minutes walk from the station, on high ground, with graded streets, lined with beautiful trees. Sewer, water and electric light connections. Over thirty lots have been sold, and fine houses erected thereon. This land is rapidly increasing in value, and we confidently recommend it to purchasers.

The East End Extension,

Comprising the Lord, Clickener and Mutual Life tracts, are in a lively and growing locality, combining every convenience and improvement, and the lots are meeting with great favor and ready sale.

We will furnish abstracts, draw deeds, and prepare all papers relating to Real Estate transactions.

We have maps of these several tracts on file at our office, and can satisfy everyone desiring to purchase, both in regard to price and terms of payment.

WE HAVE FACILITIES FOR PLACING

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Unequaled by any Agent in this County. Call on us and we will convince you of it.

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